

INTERPRETATION OF DREAMS.

DREAMS, says an ancient author, have always a reference to some transaction about to take place; and, if any person were to ponder on the dreams of the past night, he would soon discover some trait forwarning him of impending danger or additional happiness. When the body is buried in soft slumber, then the mind is at liberty from all corporeal cares and exercises, and more fully receives the divine influence: therefore it happens that many things are revealed in dreams, to those that are asleep, which are concealed when awake. With respect to the causes of dreams, both external and internal, there are many opinions: the Platonics compute them among the specific and contrite notions of the soul; Aristotle refers the cause to the common sense, but placed in the fancy; Albertus ascribes it to the superior influences which continually flow from the sky, through many specific mediums; the physicians impute the cause to the vapours and humours; others again join the powers of the soul, celestial influences, and images, together; all making but one cause. Artimedorus Daldinus and others have written on the interpretation of dreams, and have clearly done away the doubts of their authenticity; and, as a proof of this doctrine, we have subjoined very striking examples, both from sacred and profane history. If there were not something placed in the soul's view, by a secret but invisible hand, how could we figure to ourselves the face and dress of the person we dream of; nay, hear their voices, and receive due impression from what they say; and, at times, answer them with our own tongues, articulately and audibly; although, at the time we are fast asleep? And that there is a power the Scripture confirms

INTERPRETATION OF DREAMS.

by expressions expressly direct to the purpose, particularly Gen. xx. verse 3. "God came to Abimelech in a dream;" had it been said, that Abimelech dreamed that God came to him, there might have been some exception; but God actually came to him; and, although Abimelech was asleep, and in a dream, it was not the less an apparition; for, God came to him, and spoke, and said to him: and in the 4th verse, Abimelech spoke to the apparition. Whatever the shape was, that the text does not mention; but Abimelech knew whom he talked with, that is evident; for, the text mentions it fully: "And he said, Lord, wilt thou slay also a righteous nation?" And so he goes on, verse the 5th, to expostulate and plead for himself and his people, "said he unto me, she is my sister?" so that he knew that he was speaking to the Lord. The text is very remarkable; it is plain that there was an apparition, but the man was asleep, and in a dream. Certainly dreams in those days were another kind of thing than they are now. God spoke to them, and they answered; and, when they were awake, they knew that it was God that spoke, and gave heed to the vision or apparition of God to them.

We presume that, after the above instance to substantiate our doctrine, it would be unnecessary to say any thing farther upon the subject; but we shall lay before our readers some relations of the wonderful effects of dreams in our own days, and such as come within the verge of our own knowledge; but it may not be amiss in this place, to observe, that the greatest difficulty that relates to dreams is to distinguish between such as are real apparitions, and such as are only the effect of an encumbered brain, or distempered mind; but some dreams are so significant, and there follows such a visible effect, that it cannot be misunderstood. The following relation is an example:

REMARKABLE DREAM, RELATED BY CAPT. GROSE.

THE late Lord Londonderry, being engaged to dine at Hampstead, the night before he was to set out, dreamed

INTERPRETATION OF DREAMS.

that he broke his leg at a particular stile. This dream, from some circumstances, had so much weight with him, that he resolved to walk ; and, in getting over that stile of which he had dreamed, his foot slipped, so that he entangled, and broke his leg. This story he himself told to Major Hayman Rook.

REMARKABLE DREAM OF AN ITALIAN MUSICIAN.

TARTINI, a celebrated musician, much inclined to the study of music in his early youth, dreamed, one night, that he had made a compact with the devil, who promised to be at his service on all occasions ; and, during this vision, every thing succeeded according to his mind ; his wishes were prevented, and his desires always surpassed, by the assistance of his new servant. At last, he imagined that he presented the devil with his violin, in order to discover what kind of musician he was ; when, to his astonishment, he heard him play a solo so singularly beautiful, and which he executed with such superior taste and precision, that it surpassed all the music which he had ever heard or conceived in his life. So exquisite was his delight upon this occasion, that it deprived him of the power of breathing. He awoke and instantly seized his fiddle, in hopes of expressing what he had just heard, but in vain : he, however, then composed a piece, which is, perhaps, the best of all his works ; he called it " The Devil's Sonata ;" but it was so far inferior to what his sleep had produced, that he declared he would have broken his instrument, and abandoned music for ever, if he could have found any other means of subsistence.

A SINGULAR DREAM.

A LADY, of Bristol, dreamed the following singular account : A Mr. W. when on a voyage to the coast of Africa, appeared to her at the bed-side, drew the curtains, and looked stedfastly at her ; she, knowing him, asked, with surprise, what business he had there ? He answered, " Don't be frightened, my dear, I am only come to bespeak a suit of clothes for Captain S." and then disappeared.

INTERPRETATION OF DREAMS.

peared. The lady wrote down the time when she received the information; and Mr. W. on his return home acquainted her that it was then he was thrown overboard.

The above are a very few of the many instances of the wonderful effects of dreams now extant; but they are sufficient for our present purpose. We shall, therefore proceed to lay before our readers a complete theory of the science of foretelling future events by the means of dreams and, for their accommodation, have arranged our interpretations under an alphabetical form.

A DREAMING DICTIONARY.

ACQUAINTANCE. To dream that you fight with them signifies distraction; especially if the person so dreaming be sick.

ADVERSARY. To dream that you receive obstruction from him, shews you shall dispatch your business speedily.

ADULTERY. For a person to dream they have committed it, shews they shall meet with great contention and debates.

AGUE. To dream that you have one, and are very cold, shews an inclination to strong drink, wine, spices and other hot things.

AIR. To dream that you see it clear and serene, shews you shall be beloved and esteemed by all people; and that those, who are your enemies, and envy you, shall be reconciled to you. It also denotes the discovery of lost goods or things that have been stolen. If the person dreaming be at law, he shall overthrow his adversary, and, if he design a voyage or journey, he shall be successful therein. And, in short, all good things are denoted by a clear and serene air. But to dream that the air is cloudy, dark, and troubled, denotes to the dreamer sadness, grief, sickness, melancholy, loss of goods, hindrance of business, and is in all things the reverse of dreaming what we have before mentioned of a clear and serene air. But for a man to dream that the air is very

INTERPRETATION OF DREAMS.

calm, and without wind and storms, denotes his life to be peaceable, and that he shall be acceptable to all company; and that, whatever business, journeys by land, or voyages by sea, he undertakes, shall prosper and succeed according to his wishes.

ALMONDS. To dream one sees or eats almonds, signifies difficulty and trouble.

ALMS. To dream that they are begged of you, and you deny to give them, shews want and misery to the dreamer; but to dream that you gave them freely is a sign of great joy and long life to the dreamer.

ALTAR. To dream that you uncover or discover an altar, betokens joy and gladness.

ANCHOR. To dream you see one signifies great assurance and certain hope.

ANGEL. To dream you see an angel, or angels, is good; and to dream yourself is one is much better. But to speak with or call upon them is of evil signification. Yet if in secret they seem to declare something unknown, and which thou dost not understand or know, it denotes thy becoming acquainted with persons of the first quality. Also to dream that you see an angel fly over you or your house, signifies joy and consolation. It is likewise a caution to the dreamer to live well, and to repent of his sins; and that, upon so doing, he shall hear good news, and shall increase in honour and authority.

ANGER. To dream that you have been provoked to anger, shews that you have many powerful enemies.

ANGLING. To dream that you are angling, betokens much affliction and trouble, in seeking for something which you desire to get.

ANTS. To dream of them, betokens an earthly covetous mind; and, as they are subterraneous creatures, which live under the earth, to dream often of them, shews the dreamer not to be long-lived. To see ants with wings, shews a dangerous voyage, or other ill accident. To dream you see common ants, which are diligent and industrious in providing their food, is good for ploughmen and farmers, because they signify fertility; for,

INTERPRETATION OF DREAMS.

where there is no grain you will find no ants. To such as live upon the public, and reap profit by many, they are good; and to such as are sick, if they dream they come near the body; for, they are industrious, and cease not to labour, which is proper to such as live: but, if they dream that ants range about their bodies, it is a token of death, because they are inhabitants of earth, and are cold and black.

APES. To dream you have seen or had any thing to do with them, signifies malicious, weak, strange, and secret, enemies; also a malefactor and deceiver.

APPAREL. To dream that your apparel is proper, and suited to the season of the year, denotes prosperity and happiness; or that your apparel is made of linen and fine wool, if in the summer, is good; but, in the winter, it is better to dream your apparel is new, and made of strong cloth. To dream of white apparel, is good only to priests, because it belongs only to them in the administration of their sacred function; but, to others, it signifies trouble: to mechanics, it signifies want of business: to the sick, white apparel denotes death; but that which is black, their recovery. To be apparelled in a garment of divers colours, or of scarlet, is good for priests and players; but, to others, it denotes dangers, troubles, and a discovery of such things as ought to be concealed. And unto the sick, the dreaming of their being so apparelled, shews that they shall be much troubled with a redundancy of humours. For rich men and servants to be arrayed in scarlet robes, is a signification of honour, dignity, and liberty; but such a dream brings death to the sick, and an increase of poverty to the poor; and, to many, captivity. To be apparelled in a robe dyed in scarlet, signifies hurts to some, and agues to others. As to women's apparel, to dream of a woman's gown is good only to single persons, and such as come to act their parts upon stages; for, married men, after such dreams, have lost their wives, and fallen into great sickness; because, those who wear such garments are effeminate persons. Notwithstanding which, to dream of

INTERPRETATION OF DREAMS.

gowns of divers colours, or of women's gowns, is not at all bad, when you dream likewise that it is upon the account of great rejoicing, or of public assemblies. To dream you are apparelled in a gown of the fashion of some strange nation, shews such a one good luck among strangers, if they design to go among them: to dream of having a delicate and sumptuous gown, is good both to rich and poor. For, to the first, their present prosperity shall continue; and, to the other, their goods shall increase. Gowns that are torn, shew hurt and hindrance of affairs.

APPARITION. To dream you see an apparition, or spirit, that seems of a comely aspect, and attired in white, it signifies deceit, and temptation to sin.

APPLES. To dream you see apple-trees, and eat sweet and ripe apples, denotes joy, pleasure, and recreation; especially to virgins: but sour apples signify contention and sedition.

APRICOTS. To dream of apricots, and such kind of fruit, in their season, denotes, to him that dreams he sees or eats them, content, health, and pleasure: but, if you seem to eat them out of season, they signify vain hopes, and bad success in business.

ARMS. He that dreams that his arms are grown bigger and stronger than ordinary, it is a sign that he will have joy and profit, by his brother's or his son's means, and that he will become rich: but if a married woman dreams it, then her husband will increase in estate and authority. To dream one's arms or elbows are full of scabs, signifies sadness and bad success in business. To dream his arms are broken or grown lean, denotes (if he be a king or some great prince) some overthrow will happen to his army, or some disaster to his state; or his son or his brother will fall into some distemper or affliction. The same dream also denotes affliction, sickness, and poverty, to the children or brethren of private persons. And if a woman dream so, she is in danger of being a widow. If any person dream his arms are hairy, it denotes an increase of riches. To dream your right arm is cut off, signifies

INTERPRETATION OF DREAMS.

signifies the death of father, son, or brother; if it be the left, the mother, daughter, or sister.

ARMED MEN. To see them in your dream is a good sign, and denotes one void of fears. To dream you see armed men fly is a sign of victory. To see men come in arms against you, signifies sadness.

ARRESTED. To dream that you are so, or that you are taken lately by a constable, signifies want of wit, and that the party dreaming shall love fiddlers.

ASP. The person that dreams of the asp and adder is thereby betokened to have store of money and rich wives. I have known by experience that, to dream of these two creatures coming wreathed together, have been arguments of good, especially if we dream they bite us.

Ass. The ass, in dreams, denotes a good servant or slave, that is profitable to his master; it signifies also a foolish and ignorant person. To dream you see an ass signifies malice. To see an ass sitting on his crupper denotes laboriousness. To dream you hear an ass bray, shews you shall meet with some loss. To dream of asses bearing charge, strong, and obedient, is good for friendship and company, and signifies the wife's companion, or friend, being not proud above their estate, but gentle, and very obedient: they are also good in all affairs and enterprises. To see an ass run, signifies misfortune, especially to a man that is sick.

ATTORNEYS. To dream you are speaking with them, shews hindrance in business, and that a man shall have but small success in his affairs.

AUTHORITY. It is good always for a rich man to think or dream that he is in authority.

BACK. To dream you see your back betokens some unhappiness; for, the back and all the hinder parts signify old age. To dream a man's back is broken, hurt, or scabby, shews his enemies will get the better of him, and that he will be scoffed at. To dream of the back-bone, signifies health and joy, and that he will take delight in his wife and children.

INTERPRETATION OF DREAMS.

BACON. To dream that you cut it, signifies the death of some person. But to eat bacon, or any salt meats, signifies murmuring.

BAGPIPES. To dream that you play upon them, signifies trouble, contention, and being overthrown at law.

BALL. To dream that you see persons dance at a ball, or that you are engaged in a ball yourself, signifies joy, pleasure, recreation, or inheritance.

BANQUETS. To dream of banquets is very good and prosperous, and promises great preferment.

BARKING OF DOGS. To dream of the barking of dogs, signifies insulting enemies and detractors, that will crow over and bark at those that miss their way in this world towards the attainment of wealth.

BARLEY BREAD. To dream of eating barley bread, signifies health and content.

BARLEY-BREAK. To dream that one plays at it with company that use it to divert themselves, shews prosperity, joy, pleasure, health, and agreement, among friends and relations.

BARN. To dream that you see a barn stored with corn, shews that you will marry a rich wife, overthrow your adversary at law, inherit land, or grow rich by trading.

BASILISK. When you dream of a woman, that she is delivered of a basilisk instead of a child, it is a bad hieroglyphic, and betokens no good to the dreamer; and he ought heartily to recommend himself to the Divine Being, that he would preserve him, and avert those misfortunes that threaten him. And yet, if it be a woman that has such a dream, many authors (and Anselmus Julianus in particular, who is an author to whom very great regard is to be had) affirm that she shall have very good success and comfort, shall be rich and generally beloved, and shall prosper in all her undertakings.

BASON. To dream of a bason, signifies a good maid; and to dream that you eat or drink therein shews you have a love to the servant-maid. For a man to see himself in

INTERPRETATION OF DREAMS.

a bason, as in a glass, denotes he shall have children by a servant-maid.

BAT. To dream of a bat is very inauspicious; and some authors forbid such a dreamer to undertake any business on that day. Yet the bat is good to women with child; for, she lays not eggs, as others do, but little ones; and bears and gives milk, with which she nourishes her young.

BATH. To dream one sees a bath signifies affliction or grief. If a person dream he goes into, or sees himself in, a bath, and that he finds it too hot, he will be troubled and afflicted by those that belong to his family. If he dream he has only pulled off his clothes, without going into the bath, he will have some disturbance but of no long continuance. If one dream he goes into an extreme cold bath, the same signification is to be given of it as when it is too hot. But, if it be temperate, and as it ought to be, it is a good dream, presaging prosperity, joy, and health.

BATHE. To dream you bathe in a clear fountain, signifies joy; but to bathe in stinking water, signifies shame and false accusation.

BAY-TREE. To dream of the bay-tree, signifies a rich and fair wife; and also ill success of affairs, because it is bitter: but it is good for physicians, poets, and divines, to dream of it.

BEACH AND MYRTLE TREES, signifies wanton women, and are good for those who would undertake any such business; to others they are pain and labour.

BEANS. To dream you are eating beans, always signifies troubles and dissensions.

BEAR. To dream that you have seen a bear, it signifies that you have a rich, puissant, inexpert, but cruel and audacious, enemy.

BEARD. To dream you have a beard long, thick, and unhandsome, is of a good signification to an orator, or an ambassador, lawyer, philosopher, or any who desire to speak well, or to learn arts and sciences. If one

dream

INTERPRETATION OF DREAMS.

dream he hath a comely beard, it shews he shall be pleasant in his discourse, find out the intricacies of the matter proposed, and prosper in his undertakings. If a maid dream she hath a beard, she will be speedily matched to her content. If she be a married woman, such a dream threatens her with the loss of her husband, and constrained to govern her house singly, as if she were a man. If it be a woman with child that so dreams, it shews she will have a son. If a widow-woman dream she hath a beard, she shall have a husband which will be kind and bountiful. If she be at law, it shews she shall persevere in her opinion; and, bearing a high mind, regard her honour, and vindicate it, as if she were a man. To a young child, this dream is death; but to him, who is now in his youth, beginning to have a beard, it is a sign he shall rise by himself, and put himself forward, of what estate soever he be. If one dream that he hath lost his beard, or that somebody hath pulled it up by the roots, or shaved it, it denotes loss of relations, estate, and honour. To dream that one hath a great beard, in a young man betokeneth wisdom; in an old man, length of years; but in a woman, that she shall be a furious vixen and a scold, and wear the breeches.

BEES. To dream of bees is good and bad; good, if they sting not; but bad, if they sting the party dreaming; for, then the bees do signify enemies. And therefore to dream that bees fly about your ears, shews your being beset with many enemies; but, if you beat them off, without being stung by them, it is a sign of victory, and of your overcoming them. To dream of seeing bees signifies profit to country-people, and trouble to the rich; yet, to dream that they make their honey in any part of the house, or tenement, signifies dignity, eloquence, and good success in business. To take bees signifies profit and gain, by reason of their honey and wax.

BEETS. To dream of eating beets signifies freedom from trouble, and expedition of business; because they make the body soluble.

INTERPRETATION OF DREAMS.

BEDSIDE. To dream of sitting upon a maid's bedside, or talking with her, is a sign of marriage; especially if a person dreams that he goes between the sheets. Should a husband dream that his wife sat on his bedside while the family-footman was in the room, it savours of adultery. [See this verified in the case of Mrs. Wilmet, whose trial is published.]

BEGGARS. To dream of poor folks or beggars entering into a house, and carrying away any thing, whether it be given them, or they steal it, denotes very great adversity.

BEHEADING. To dream that one is beheaded, and that the head is separated from the body, that signifies liberty to prisoners, health to the sick, comfort to those in distress, to creditors payment of debts. To princes good fortune, and that their cares and fears will be turned into joy, and also confidence in their subjects. If one dream that a person of his acquaintance beheads him, he will share with him in his pleasure and honour. If any one dreams that a young child, who hath not yet attained the age of his youth, hath cut off his head, if the dreamer be sick he will not live long; if in health, he will get honour. If a woman with child dream thus, she will bring forth a male child, and her husband will die suddenly; for, he is her head. To dream that you see one beheaded signifies sickness.

BELLS. To dream one hears ringing of bells, if of a sanguine complexion, brings him good news; but to others it shews alarms, murmurings, disturbance, and commotions, among citizens. To dream one plays tunes upon small bells, signifies discord and disunion between subjects and servants.

BELLY. To dream one's belly is bigger and fuller than ordinary shews his family and estate will increase proportionably, according to the greatness of his belly. If one dreams his belly is grown lean and shrunk up, he will be joyfully delivered of some bad accident. If any one dreams that his belly is swelled, and yet, notwithstanding,